(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the revenue passengers carried?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Indian Airlines passenger carriage, including that of the Alliance Air, increased from 7.635 million in 1994-95 to 7.695 million in 2000-2001.

The figure of 5.992 million passengers in 2000-2001 mentioned in the question refers to the passenger carriage of Indian Airlines alone, excluding Alliance Air.

Alliance Air has been operating the B-737 fleet of Indian Airlines since April 1996 on the network as earlier operated by Indian Airlines by B-737 aircraft.

Indian Airlines and Alliance Air, however, have taken the following measures to increase passenger carrriage on its system:—

Route rationalisation and development of aircraft based on market requirements.

Introduction of market responsible flexi-fare policy.

Innovative marketing strategies.

Replacement of ageing aircraft and augmentation of capacity.

Improvement in the quality of product/customer services.

Acquisition of new aircrafts by IA and AI

609. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India and Indian Airlines have decided to acquire some new aircrafts to supplement their ageing fleets;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the phased plans drawn up to acquire the additional aircraft and their proposed deployment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently a machinery has been establised to ensure that the two airlines desist from damaging each other's

interests by under cutting, especially when their fleets are augmented and may have spare capacity to offer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Air India has not finalised any decision for acquiring new aircraft. However an in-House Expert Committee has been constituted to develop Air India's Fleet Plans for the next five years. The Expert Committee is also required to determine the new generic aircraft type in terms of required capacity and range and the number of aircaft units to be inducted for fleet replacement and fleet expansion. The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines had approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft at a net project cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. A Project Report has been submitted to the Government for approval. Subject to the Government approval, these aircraft would be inducted in a phased manner and deployed on the existing domestic/international network of Indian Airlines.

(c) and (d) There were various mechanisms already in place to bring about co-ordination between the two airlines. The representatives of the two airlines meet each other from time to time to share market data and follow a co-ordinated approach to avoid unhealthy market practices.

Cheating of foreign passengers by touts at IGI Airport

†610. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of cheating and misleading the passengers particularly foreign passengers by the touts are increasing constantly at India Gandhi International Airport and Palam Airport;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take action against these touts;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when action is likely to be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.